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--1. (Amended) A method for producing, on a magnetic tape having a magnetic recording side and a non-recording side opposite the recording side, a plurality of servo tracks capable of being optically detected independently from one another, the method comprising passing at least a portion of the magnetic tape through a work area; and forming the servo tracks and non-servo tracks on a surface of the non-recording side of the portion of the magnetic tape as the tape passes through the work area, the servo tracks being grouped in bands, each comprised of plural servo tracks, each of the bands being delimited by at least one non-servo track at upper and lower portions thereof.

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3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein each of the servo tracks comprises a plurality of discrete optically independently detectable longitudinally spaced marks.

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7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein forming comprises printing the servo tracks and wherein printing is performed by inkjet printing.

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8. (Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the inkjet printing uses a fluorescent material that is optically detectable under selected lighting conditions.

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10. (Amended) The method according to claim 60, wherein a second flat surface substantially perpendicular to the first surface guides a portion of tape passing through the work area to stabilize the tape by reducing transverse motion of the tape.

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising cleaning the magnetic tape after forming the servo tracks on the magnetic tape.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein cleaning the magnetic tape includes flowing a gas across a surface of the tape to remove debris from the tape.

14 (Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein cleaning the magnetic tape includes contacting the magnetic tape with a cleaning material to remove debris from the magnetic tape.

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising optically verifying a characteristic of the servo tracks to control a marking quality of the servo tracks.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein verifying a characteristic includes measuring a characteristic representative of size of a servo track.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein verifying a characteristic includes measuring a characteristic representative of location of a servo track.

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein forming comprises applying an embossing roller to the magnetic tape to form a servo pattern thereon.

⁶ ~~21~~. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein forming comprises
F4 metallizing the tape to form a servo pattern thereon.

⁷ ~~22~~. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein forming comprises
employing a photographic process to develop an image representative of a servo track pattern.

⁸ ~~23~~. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein forming comprises applying a
fluorescent material to the magnetic tape.

⁹ ~~24~~. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising burnishing the
magnetic tape.

¹⁰ ~~58~~. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the servo tracks are formed
F7 using a plurality of optical beams, and the plurality of optical beams are formed by optically
beam-splitting a single laser beam emitted by a laser.

¹¹ ~~59~~. (Amended) The method according to claim ¹⁰ ~~58~~, wherein forming the servo tracks
comprises

passing the single laser beam through a first beamsplitter to form a first band pattern
defining spaced apart multiple bands; and

passing the spaced apart multiple bands through a second beam splitter to form a second
band pattern defining servo tracks within a respective one of the spaced apart multiple bands.

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~~60.~~ (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein a force generated by a linear tape motion urges the recording side of the magnetic tape against a first surface disposed in the work area so as to maintain a focus of the non-recording side of the tape with respect to forming a servo pattern.

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~~61.~~ (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the servo tracks are formed using an optical beam patter, and the optical beam pattern has a width that is substantially identical to a width of the magnetic tape.

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~~62.~~ (Amended) The method according to claim ²~~3~~, wherein forming comprises forming servo marks on different servo tracks, and wherein the servo marks that are located on the different servo tracks are formed simultaneously.--
